

Message Text

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ACTION COA-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 OES-03 DLOS-03 DOTE-00

CG-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07

FRB-01 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-01 TAR-01

TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01 /103 W

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R 171312Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7316

INFO AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 00822

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, GW, IC

SUBJECT: FRG-ICELAND FISHERIES DISPUTE

1. DURING DISCUSSION OF SEVERAL FRG FISHERY ISSUES AT FORNOFFICE, KAUFMANN-BUEHLER OF LEGAL DIVISION REITERATED FRG'S CONTINUING EXASPERATION WITH ICELANDIC FAILURE TO RESPOND TO FRG OVERTURES FOR RESUMPTION OF NEGOTIATIONS. GOI HAS HAD NO OFFICIAL CONTACT WITH THE FRG ON THIS ISSUE SINCE A DRAFT AGREEMENT WAS PREPARED BY ICELANDIC AND FRG NEGOTIATORS IN OCT, AND THE FRG HAS NOT BEEN INFORMED REGARDING THOSE ELEMENTS OF DRAFT AGREEMENT WHICH WERE UNACCEPTABLE TO ICELANDIC GOVERNMENT.

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2. KAUFMANN-BUEHLER REPORTED THAT THE LATEST

FRG INITIATIVE INVOLVED A DEMARCHE BY FRG AMBASSADOR IN REYKJAVIK TO FORNMIN AGUSTASSON ON JAN 13. SINCE AGUSTSSON PROMISED AN EARLY RESPONSE, THE FRG IS HOPEFUL THAT SOMETHING WILL BE FORTHCOMING SHORTLY. GIVEN THE HISTORY OF FRG-ICELANDIC NEGOTIATIONS, HOWEVER, KAUFMANN-BUEHLER WAS EXTREMELY PESSIMISTIC ABOUT COMING TO AN EVENTUAL AGREEMENT.

3. NEW DIMENSION HAS BEEN ADDED TO THE DISPUTE, ACCORDING TO KAUFMANN-BUEHLER, BY GOI DECISION TO RAISE IN OECD AND GATT FORA THE BAN ON ICELANDIC FISH LANDINGS IMPOSED BY GERMAN COASTAL STATES AND THE FRG WITHHOLDING OF EC TARIFF REDUCTION FOR ICELANDIC FISH PRODUCTS. SINCE GOI ACTION IN OECD HAS THUS FAR BEEN ONLY INFORMATIVE IN NATURE, FRG HAS NOT TAKEN A POSITION, BUT ATTEMPT BY ICELAND TO PLACE MATTER ON GATT AGENDA WILL MEET VIGOROUS FRG OBJECTIONS. FRG BELIEVES THE MATTER IS ESSENTIALLY BILATERAL AND WILL INSIST ON BILATERAL TALKS AS A PRECONDITION FOR CONCURRENCE IN ANY GATT EXAMINATION.

4. KAUFMANN-BUEHLER CONCLUDED BY AGAIN EMPHASIZING THE FRG'S INTEREST IN RESUMING NEGOTIATIONS AND ARRIVING AT A MUTUALLY-ACCEPTABLE AGREEMENT.
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